

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series #2

Historical Resource Registration Programs in California

Registration is an integral part of the four essential components of historic preservation: **identification, evaluation, registration and protection.**

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) offers four different registration programs: **California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, California Register of Historical Resources** and **National Register of Historic Places**. Each is unique in the benefits offered and procedures required. If a resource meets the criteria for registration, you may nominate it to any program at any time. (Resources, for example, do not have to be locally designated before being nominated to a state program nor must they be registered at the state level before being nominated to the National Register.)

The following information is provided to help you choose which registration program best suits your needs. On the back cover of this handout is a reference chart that summarizes the basic elements of each program.

Also important to remember is that many local governments in California offer local designation/registration programs that may be even more beneficial depending on your situation. Check with the local government with jurisdiction over the particular resource you are considering registering to learn more about the value of local designation.

California Historical Landmarks

Recognizes only those resources of statewide significance

Effects of Designation

- Limited protection: Environmental review may be required under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) if property is threatened by a project. Contact your local planning agency for more information.
- Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act).
- Local building inspector must grant code alternative provided under State Historic Building Code.
- Registration will be recorded on the property deed.
- Automatic listing in California Register of Historical Resources.

- Bronze plaque (underwritten by local sponsor) ordered through OHP; highway directional sign available through local Department of Transportation (Caltrans) district office.

Procedures for Registration

1. Obtain application and criteria from OHP.
2. Complete application according to cover letter and supplemental instructions.
3. If a plaque is requested, written permission of property owner to place the plaque on his or her property must be enclosed.
4. Application will be reviewed by OHP staff and placed on an agenda of the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) for action.

California Points of Historical Interest

Recognizes resources of local or county-wide importance

Effects of Designation

- Limited protection: Environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project. Contact your local planning agency for more information.
- Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act).
- Local building inspector must grant code alternative provided under State Historic Building Code.
- Concurrent listing in California Register of Historical Resources.
- Registration is recorded on property deed.
- Small enamel directional sign (no text) available through local Caltrans district office. Owner may place his or her own marker at the site.

Procedures for Registration

1. Obtain application and criteria from the Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Complete application according to cover letter and supplemental instructions.
3. Application will be reviewed by OHP staff and placed on an agenda of the SHRC for action.

California Register of Historical Resources

Intended to serve as an authoritative guide to the state's significant historical and archeological resources. Resources listed through any of the other registration programs described in this handout are also listed in the California Register.

Effects of Designation

- Limited protection: Environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project. Contact your local planning agency for more information.
- Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act).
- Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historical Building Code.
- Owner may place his or her own plaque or marker at the site of the resource.

Procedures for Registration

1. Obtain application manual and instructions from the Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Complete application, including all necessary supplemental forms, according to instructions.
3. Notify the clerk of the local government with land use authority over the resource by certified mail that an application will be filed with OHP and request that the local government provide written comments. The notification must include a copy of the application.
4. Upon receiving written comments from the local government, or ninety days after sending notification to the local government (whichever is sooner), the applicant forwards the completed application and any comments to OHP.
5. Within 30 days, OHP staff will ensure that the application is complete and will send notification to the property owner (if the applicant is not the property owner). When the application is complete and the resource owner has been notified, the application will be scheduled on an agenda of the SHRC for action.

Note: A nomination does not require owner consent in order for the resource to be listed, but it cannot be listed over an owner's objections. The SHRC can, however, formally determine a property eligible for the California Register if the resource owner objects.

National Register of Historic Places

Recognizes resources of local, state and national significance; registers only those properties that have retained enough physical integrity to accurately convey their appearance during their period of historical significance.

Effects of Designation

- Tax incentives, in some cases, for rehabilitation of depreciable structures.
- Tax deduction available for donation of preservation easement.
- Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historical Building Code.
- Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act).
- Consideration in federally funded or licensed undertakings (Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act)
- Limited protection: Environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project. Contact your local planning agency for more information.
- Automatic listing in California Register of Historical Resources.
- Owner may place his or her own plaque or marker at the resource site.

Procedures for Registration

1. Obtain application packet from OHP. Read National Register criteria and *How to Complete the National Register Forms* (Bulletin 16A) and follow these guidelines exactly when preparing application form.
2. If you are not the owner of the property you are submitting for registration, please inform the owner of your intention to apply for registration. The property or district may not be listed over the objection of the owner or a majority of owners.

3. If the area is proposed for registration as an historic district, please follow the SHRC district policy prior to submission of the application. OHP staff is available to assist district applicants and should be contacted in the early stages of the process.
4. Submit completed forms, photographs and maps to OHP for review. If the property is endangered or the applicant is requesting rehabilitation incentives under the Tax Reform Act or Revenue Act of 1978, this must be stated clearly in the cover letter.
5. Applications will be reviewed by the OHP. Those which are inadequate or are not prepared in accordance with the guidelines published in Bulletin 16A will be returned to the applicant for further work.
6. OHP notifies all applicants, property owners and appropriate governmental jurisdictions of the time and place of the SHRC meeting.
7. If approved by the SHRC, the application is sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer for nomination to the National Register. The final determination is made 45 days after receipt by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

	California Historical Landmarks	California Points of Historical Interest	California Register of Historical Resources	National Register of Historic Places
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C The first, last, only or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region (Northern, Central or Southern California). C Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California. C A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder. 	Same as those for Landmarks, but directed to local (city or county) regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. C Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. C Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values. C Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. C Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. C Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. C Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

	California Historical Landmarks	California Points of Historical Interest	California Register of Historical Resources	National Register of Historic Places
<i>Relation to other registration programs</i>	Resources listed as California Historical Landmarks are automatically listed in California Register.	Resources listed as Points of Historical Interest are concurrently listed in California Register.	Resources listed in National Register or as California Historical Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest are also listed in California Register.	Resources listed in National Register are automatically listed in California Register.
<i>Owner Consent</i>	Written consent of property owner(s) is required.	Written consent of property owner(s) is required.	Consent of property owner(s) not required, but cannot be listed if owner(s) objects.	Consent of property owner(s) not required, but cannot be listed if owner(s) objects.
<i>Local Government Notification</i>	Local government must be given 60 days to comment on application before public hearing is held.	Local government must be given 60 days to comment on application before public hearing is held.	Clerk of local government must be given 90 days to comment on application before it is sent to OHP.	Local government must be given 60 days to comment on application before public hearing is held.

	California Historical Landmarks	California Points of Historical Interest	California Register of Historical Resources	National Register of Historic Places
Effects of Designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historic Building Code. C Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act). C <u>Limited</u> protection (environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project). <u>Contact local planning agency for further information.</u> C Bronze plaque (with text) at site and highway directional marker (no text). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historic Building Code. C Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act). C <u>Limited</u> protection (environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project). <u>Contact local planning agency for further information.</u> C Highway directional marker (no text). Owner may place own plaque or marker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historic Building Code. C Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act). C <u>Limited</u> protection (environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project). <u>Contact local planning agency for further information.</u> C Owner may place own plaque or marker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Tax incentives, in some cases, for rehabilitation of depreciable structures. C Tax deduction available for donation of preservation easement. C Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historic Building Code. C Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act). C Preservation consideration in federally funded or licensed undertakings (Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act). C <u>Limited</u> protection (environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project). <u>Contact local planning agency for further information.</u> C Owner may place own plaque or marker.

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